



# MANCHESTER

## PARKS, RECREATION & CEMETERIES

Department of Public Works

475 Valley Street, Manchester, NH 03103 603-624-6444 [www.manchesternh.gov](http://www.manchesternh.gov)

### Email Newsletter September/October 2020

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



While our Parks, Recreation & Cemetery personnel continue to perform admirably during this challenging year, I'd like to take a moment to thank some of our partners who don't always get recognition for their role in maintaining Manchester's recreation infrastructure.

Public Works Highway, Facilities and Environmental Protection Divisions contribute engineers and technicians, sewer and storm drain crews, heavy equipment operators and refuse collectors, all of whom help us build, improve and maintain our parks and facilities. Their hard work is often invisible to the public, but enjoyment of Manchester's parks would not be possible without them.

We are also fortunate to have a legion of volunteers who quietly go about picking up litter and helping us to beautify our parks and trails. They do not ask for recognition, but their work is much appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who supports our mission, in big ways and small. I hope you find time to get out and enjoy the crisp fall weather and changing color.

**Mark Gomez**

**Chief of Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries**

#### IT WAS A GREAT SUMMER AFTER ALL!

With Fun in the Sun cancelled for the summer, recreation staff quickly shifted gears. Through coordination with the Mayors Office, Americorps volunteers helped us with youth programs and park cleanups.



Left to right: Americorps volunteers Matt, Chris, and Nick helped make National Water Balloon Day and Tie Dye Thursday a great success with their help.

The first Friday in August we celebrated National Water Balloon Day. We filled up 1000+ balloons and put them in individual bags for kids to toss. On Tie Dye Thursdays, we set up tables at Piscataquog River Park for families to bring their t-shirts and dye them. This event was a big hit!



#### Nature and Photography Hikes



Lead by our Ameri-Corps volunteers, we sponsored four photography hikes this summer. Participants learned how to use a camera and take professional

photos. They also got to see some of the best views in Manchester from the top of Rock Rimmon and Derryfield Park.

#### Zumba Kids

We were able to offer dance for the first time this summer. Lead by certified Zumba Instructor Sindy Chown, we held eight sessions of Zumba Kids outside at Sheehan-Basquil Park. Kids learned Colombian dances, in addition to getting a great workout.

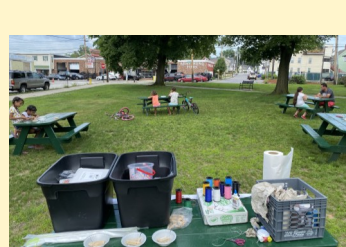


#### Space Art

New this summer, we brought Uncharted Tutoring in for an eight week Space Art class at Derryfield Park. Participants learned about space and created rockets that they launched into the air. Participants also made paper lanterns and explored the classifications of different astral bodies.

#### Arts In The Parks

Young artists joined us on Tuesdays/Thursdays at Sheehan Basquil /Sweeney Park to show us what they could create. We also handed out art kits for those who stopped by and wanted to create at home.







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#### WORKING TOGETHER

In a typical year, we work with the Manchester School District to provide breakfast and lunch to children who attend Fun In The Sun. The ability to provide food for some of our most vulnerable population was severely hindered this summer without the program. In response, we worked with the school district and Granite YMCA to secure more than \$110,000 in grants to help purchase PPE, equipment and food that was distributed to families. We also worked with the Granite YMCA to host the Powers Scholars Program at the JFK Coliseum, and with the Health Department, to assemble and distribute buckets of fun at events held by both departments.

#### FLAG POLE UPGRADES

Did you know that Parks, Recreation & Cemetery personnel are responsible for lowering flags to half-mast (and raising them back up) when ordered by the Governor?

With 31 flag poles to attend to, this can be a very time-consuming job. You may notice new flag poles going in at park locations. These have internal lanyards and are designed such that the process of lowering and raising the flag is much more efficient.



#### RAIL TRAILS COMING TOGETHER

Work has begun on improvements to the Rockingham Rail Trail! Here are some details:

- The project area extends approximately two miles, from Mammoth Rd to Lake Shore Rd
- Pedestrian crossings will be formalized at Mammoth Rd, Page St, I-93 Exit 6 connector ramps (NB/SB), Candia Rd, and Lake Shore Rd
- Connections to neighboring streets will be established
- Existing drainage and erosion issues will be addressed
- The trail will be widened to an average of ten feet with two feet of gravel shoulders
- Wayfinding signage and solar lighting will be installed at select locations along the trail
- We anticipate completion in late 2020

Along the South Manchester Rail Trail, replacement of the Goffs Falls Road Bridge will include construction of

a temporary bypass road. This will prohibit pedestrian and bicycle traffic on the trail from passing under the bridge from approximately October 2020 to August 2021.

#### PUBLIC SKATE

Public Skate has opened at the JFK Coliseum, starting out with a limited schedule:

Saturdays and Sundays 2-4PM

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-11:30AM

Face masks are required in the building, but are optional while skating on the ice. Capacity is capped at 50.

Adults \$5, Seniors and children under 18 \$3.

\$5 for skate rentals.

Stick and Puck has started at the West Side Arena weekdays from 9-11AM. \$7

#### PULASKI PARK

The basketball court is done! Thanks in part to the Kiwanis Major Emphasis Grant we received in 2018, we removed the old court, replaced the pavement, and revitalize the space, complete with landscaping and irrigation. The August 12th ribbon cutting ceremony officially opened the court. Rose bushes and lilacs were donated by the Manchester Garden Club for the area around the monument. The club completed the planting with seven Americorps volunteers.



#### YOUNGSVILLE PARK

Check out the tennis courts at Youngsville Park, The surface was repaired and the courts are newly painted with both tennis and pickle ball lines. Posts will be straightened in the near future.



**UPDATE:** Jaden Breault completed his Eagle Scout Project in Pine Grove Cemetery with the planting of two trees next to the flag pole he and his team installed.

